

The Iowa Galaxy

September 2021

Vol. 49, Issue 4

Polly Miller

Worthy Grand Matron

2021



Kenny Wogomon

Worthy Grand Patron

2021



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we approach the completion of our term as Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron, I am extremely grateful to our membership for all of the love and support. Plus, your generosity of our projects is greatly appreciated!

We have enjoyed the hospitality of many as we completed our interrupted school season. It was slow going at first as we resumed our travels in May. Many were hesitant to get out and participate at first. As June progressed, we witnessed people becoming more comfortable interacting with one another – hugs were BACK!!

July saw the return of our annual golf outing, and we were ready to have some fun!! We golfed at a different golf course in the Des Moines area, A.H. Blank. From comments Kenny and I received, the change in venue was well-received. It was so pleasing to see so many friends enjoy the beautiful day as we worked to raise funds for our state project, H.O.R.S.E. We had 24 four-person teams that participated and around 70 non-golfers – many of whom enjoyed the miniature golf at the new golf venue. Everyone enjoyed the meal served by the staff afterward - it was delicious!

A small group of Grand Officers and companions journeyed down to Wichita, Kansas, for the 5-State Exchange which was hosted by Kansas Grand Chapter.

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Worthy Grand Patron's Ramblings from the Road

I normally start out these ramblings with a rhyme; but, as this is my last article as Worthy Grand Patron for *The Galaxy*, I simply want to say what an honor and privilege it has been to be allowed to represent the membership of Iowa Grand Chapter for the past two years. The kindness and friendship you have shown to me and Heather has been overwhelming. I would put the can-do spirit of this membership up against any other Grand Chapter in the land. You all truly encompass what the virtues of the Star Points represent. And I love you all.

In March of last year, we made the extremely tough decision to extend our term an extra year due to the pandemic and all the restrictions placed on everyone. This meant that Polly and I and our corps of Grand Officers would serve 24 months for Grand Chapter and that 143rd Session of Grand Chapter would need to be canceled. So now we stand with about four weeks left until the 144th session of Grand Chapter begins. Our abilities to perform the needed tasks have gone up, down, back and forth-- and to be honest, I am not sure how firm the ground is that I am standing on at this point. All I can promise you is that we have done everything we possibly could throughout this "event" in our Star history to make sure that your Eastern Star came this far as strong as we possibly could. It is my belief that your Worthy Grand Matron

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Our Changed Lives During the COVID-19 Pandemic

From the Grand Secretary's Pen...



Nancy Ramthun
Grand Secretary &
Past Grand Matron



Greetings,

Sisters and Brothers!

It is hard to believe that in a few short weeks from the writing of this article we will be on our way to Grand Chapter. If you are planning to attend, visit our own Iowa O.E.S. website at www.iowaeasternstar.org and click on the Grand Chapter Session tab. There you will find the forms needed to register for Grand Chapter. The pre-registration and meals forms are fillable, printable, and ready to send with your payment to: Grand Chapter of Iowa, P.O. Box 72, Knoxville IA 50138.

The Chapter Secretaries will be receiving a packet in the mail. Included in this packet will be the Worthy Matron's receipt form to pick up your Chapter's packet which will include the 2022 materials. This form needs to be signed by the Chapter Secretary with the Chapter seal affixed. You **must** have this signed form with you at Grand Chapter in order to receive your Chapter's packet.

I need to ask two things of our members. One, if you are sending an email to me that pertains to Eastern Star business or questions, please use the email address for Grand Chapter: iowaoes@iowatelecom.net and not my personal email. I would hate to miss an important email because it was sent to the wrong address. Second, please use Grand Chapter P.O. Box 72 when mailing correspondence to the office and not the street address (303 1/3 E. Marion St.). The Post Office here will be most appreciative.

Check out the Worthy Grand Patron's article that will include my latest crazy adventure. Hint--it involves a **big white semi**.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you in October, and until then, stay safe and healthy.

In Star Love and Friendship,

~~ Nancy

*"Go as far as you can see; when you get there,
you'll be able to see farther."*

Polly Miller, Worthy Grand Matron

Continued from Page 1)

We enjoyed a fun time with other Sisters and Brothers from Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and South Dakota.

That same weekend we quickly returned to Iowa for a fun Sunday brunch in Boone with Brother Denny Heflin, Grand Master of Iowa, and the Grand Lodge Officers. Fun, fellowship and laughter were enjoyed by all!

The All-Iowa Event was attended by many at the Winterset City Park to raise funds for Iowa Grand Chapter. The committee had an afternoon of fun activities planned, but I think many were interested in touring Brother Kenny and Sister Heather's semi-truck! Kenny told me they gave tours to around 50 members that afternoon. We played Bingo, had several cake walks, a silent auction with lots of wonderful stuff and a live auction too! There was a husband-calling contest, but no wife-calling contest... I guess the guys were too shy! Plus, the weather was superb for the event! Thanks to Nancy and Tim Ramthun for bringing their popcorn machine for the afternoon. It helped complete the carnival atmosphere!

Thank you to each member of Iowa Eastern Star for all of your love and support—we cannot say that enough! We are very blessed to have such wonderful people in our beautiful organization!

Lastly, but by no means least, is my BIG thank you to my Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Kenny, for ALL of his counsel and support during our term as Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron. I should add our companions to that list as well, Sisters Heather and Pam and Brother Michael. Together they helped me navigate a tricky, ever-changing situation since March of 2020. Words cannot express my gratitude for their patience as I worried about the various concerns and issues like a dog with a bone!! Then they helped me calm down and "come in off the ledge" so I could proceed with the things that needed to be done. Thank you so much for all that you have said and done during our term!

As things are changing again, we are discussing options and plans to bring this year to a close so that Cheryl Payne, John Whitaker, and their 2022 Grand Officers can take over and move on with their plans. We're looking forward to seeing the results of the fundraising that has taken place since October 2019, and we look forward to seeing what Cheryl and John are planning for their term.

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Our Changed Lives During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Kenny Wogomon, Worthy Grand Patron

(Continued from Page 1)

Polly Miller is one of the strongest leaders this organization has ever had. Standing by her side through this has been a privilege, and I only hope I have helped her in some small way.

During these past weeks in which we have been allowed to do what we could not do for so long, we have had a lot of fun days with Chapters, and let me tell you, it has been so nice to see smiles, hear laughter, and give and receive hugs and handshakes. It seems like years since I have been able to meet with the membership, and I am truly humbled by the response the Grand Family has received during these visits. Thank you all for the friendship, fellowship and refreshments; these are all food for my soul.

I was able to get the Worthy Grand Patron's "TRUCK" to the fun day at the park in Winterset, and I gave over fifty tours at a dollar each to raise funds for Iowa Grand Chapter. One brave soul gave a **\$100 donation to Grand Chapter** to be able to drive the truck, so when you see her, tell our own Grand Secretary Nancy Ramthun "10-4 and Roll On." Nancy, thank you so much for that! I enjoyed it, and I hope you did as well. (See pictures at right and below.)

We were able to hold our annual golf outing this year, although it came close to not happening at all. A few weeks prior to the scheduled event, Polly, Heather and I were in Des Moines for Rainbow Grand Assembly, and we decided to take a ride to Terrace Hills Golf Course to see how the Renovations were going. Much to our dismay, it appeared that it would not be completed in time. After contacting the course general manager, this was confirmed and plans were set in motion to secure a new venue. The outing was relocated to Blank Golf Course in Des Moines and, if I may say so, the golf outing was an enormous success!

Since then and for the next several weeks, Polly and I will be looking over everything that continues to evolve with the new variants of this darned COVID-19, and we will adjust guidelines as needed. As of now (when I am writing not when you are reading) there have been no new restrictions, so we will all just need to continue to do what we think is in the best interests of ourselves and others. I look forward to seeing all of you at the remaining fun events on our calendar. I hope you were able to attend the only Conferring of Degrees we were able to perform during the regular (that is a funny term for what this has been!) calendar of events on August 7th in Davenport.

Grand Chapter is October 8th through the 10th, and we will be Conferring the Degrees again during the Saturday session. There are three soon-to-be

new members; Polly's two nieces and my daughter. So for us, this will be an incredibly special set of Degrees! I would only hope as many of you will attend as possible because Grand Chapter is for the MEMBERSHIP as a whole, not just the Grand Officers. See you there!

In Star Love and Friendship, *Kenny*



Polly Miller, Worthy Grand Matron

(Continued from Page 2)

- ◆ Don't forget that we will be drawing 5 winners from all of those quilt raffle tickets that have been purchased! If you haven't gotten a ticket (or tickets), there is still time! The drawing will be held Saturday evening, October 9th at Grand Chapter, and tickets will be available until 5 p.m. that day. You do not have to be present to win, so check with your Project Chairman or attend one of the remaining fun events to get your ticket(s)!

- ◆ As the new Delta variant of COVID-19 is starting to spike, I urge everyone to use caution, stay home if you do not feel well, and wear your masks as you feel necessary! This is not a mandate, just a reminder to use your best judgment! Please respect each other - and most importantly, BE KIND to one another! We can and will overcome this virus, but we need to work together to accomplish this goal!

- ◆ Thanks again for your love and support! Remember to keep F.A.I.T.H. - Forwarding All Issues To Heaven.

~~ Polly



Blessings come in many ways, but the nicest and most come as friends!

Many thanks for all the gestures of friendship and love sent to me and my family at Nancy's passing. A special thanks to those District Instructors with whom she served Iowa Grand Chapter. She would have been so pleased.

~~Delores Swope, Past Grand Electa, Darcey Swope, Grand Electa, and all our family

DISTRICT 6 CONFERRING OF DEGREES

****AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL****

The August 31st District 6 Initiation was a beautiful evening spent with many Sisters and Brothers with a dual purpose: Conferring of Degrees and raising money for this year's Special Project. District Instructor Lori Rasmusson reported that every single Officer did absolutely beautiful work, making for a very impressive meeting for our newest members. There were Officers from 10 of the 12 Chapters in District 6. Everyone worked together so nicely and it really showed. Thank you to everyone who had a part! It was a great example of how O.E.S. members come together and work so well together. We missed our Brother Russ Benedict, and we hope you are getting better quickly, Russ!

A "gi-normous" thank you goes to Central Chapter, Marshalltown, for hosting this event. The Chapter room was beautiful--it even had new paint! Thank you for all of the set-up and take-down work, along with handling the kitchen and serving the ice cream social. Everything was perfect!

Not only does Tama Chapter, Toledo, have two new Sisters—but District 6 raised \$366.20 from its ice cream sundae social for the H.O.R.S.E. Special Project. Not bad for ice cream sundaes, right?! For those of you who missed it, there were so many flavors of ice cream, delicious toppings, and lots of wonderful cookies and bars provided by all the Chapters, and drinks provided by Central Chapter. It was unbelievable, and well worth our donations!

Thanks also to Lisa Swanson, who told us all about the H.O.R.S.E. State Project. Grand Organist Sheila Kiehne and Project Chairman Jody Connor both sold their wares as well, to raise even more for Iowa Grand Chapter and the H.O.R.S.E. state project. We can be proud of both our work and our donation! Toledo Chapter also wishes to thank all of the members from District 6 who helped in any way with this event.

~~Submitted by District Instructor Lori Rasmusson

THIS ARTICLE was intended to remind our readers that pre-registration for Grand Chapter is due September 9; however, with the emergence of the COVID-19 Delta variant, we pause to bring you this public service announcement.

In the same spirit as the "lab report" in a previous issue, this issue features a "cat scan" to assist you in the proper way to wear a mask (lower left). And Dale Sorenson adds his own humor to the subject (below right).

~~Editor



What a year we have had during this pandemic! Now that many, if not most, of our membership has received their Covid vaccine, it is time to resume normal activities! Our Most Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Marianne Shenefelt, has rescinded her pandemic restrictions, so this letter is to notify everyone about the rescission of Iowa Grand Chapter restrictions. **EFFECTIVE JULY 1st**

1. Chapter officers and members may sit in their stations and on the sidelines as usual.
2. If you are vaccinated, you do not need to wear a mask – unless you want to.
3. Meals may be prepared/served/eaten at chapter meetings. (Please check with the Masons to be sure it is okay to do this.) You may have potluck meals again!
4. You do not need to have attendance sheets signed by everyone attending the meeting.
5. Chapters can resume marching in with the march.
6. Chapters may resume singing during meetings.
7. Presenting may return to normal.
8. Initiation may resume and remember when initiating, if you have only 1 candidate you will need to have a courtesy candidate walk with the initiate. Otherwise, you will initiate at least 2 candidates at a time up to 4 candidates at a time.

One thing that will not change, if you are not feeling well OR if you have been exposed to someone who has a confirmed case of Covid please stay home and take care of yourself. We still need to take some precautions.

Please be kind to anyone who chooses to still wear a mask or may not be comfortable with shaking hands or giving/receiving hugs. Also, remember that some members may need encouragement to return to chapter meetings or activities since they have not been anywhere in the last year.



WAVERLY CHAPTER #353 O.E.S. HOLDS OUTDOOR SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION



After a whole year of COVID-19, it was a beautiful afternoon on June 29th when Waverly Chapter #353 held their School of Instruction outside at the private campground of Associate Matron Deb Renner and Worthy Patron Brad Renner. Music was provided by many beautiful birds. Brother Brad handmade a wooden altar and dais, along with podiums for each of the Star Points.

Sister Mary Reicks, Associate Grand Conductress and our District Instructor, met early with the Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Secretary, and Treasurer. After a light lunch, everyone went to their respective chairs. Sister Joan Hilmer was Conductress pro-tem; Sister Diane King served as Esther, and Brother Luke Reicks was Sentinel. Sister Mary took us through the complete School of Instruction and concluded at 5:30 p.m. She then thanked everyone for the great work they did under such unusual circumstances. She presented Worthy Matron Pam MacKay and Worthy Patron Brad Renner with special jars of jams which had been made by her mother who had since passed away. A special "thank you" gift was given to Sister Mary for helping us through our School of Instruction.

A delicious after School supper consisted of homemade pizza! Brother Brad had recently built a wood-burning brick oven at the campground. Sister Norma Fobian provided homemade canned pizza sauce, and a wide variety of toppings were provided by the Chapter. Everyone was given an individual crust and a number. After each one selected and put toppings on their own pizza, the crusts were returned to Brother Brad's nephews and wives where they were placed in the pizza oven. Once baked, each individual pizza was returned to the person associated with that number for a one-of-a-kind made-to-taste experience. Fresh fruit and desserts were also provided by various members of the Chapter.

Pictured above right are Worthy Matron Pam McKay and Worthy Patron Brad Renner. Below are some pictures showing everyone enjoying the pizzas. No one went away hungry!

~~ Submitted by Norma Fobian, Secretary of Waverly Chapter



The Eighty-fourth Annual Session of the Grand Chapter of Iowa was held in Cedar Rapids with headquarters at the Hotel Roosevelt and the session being held in the Memorial Coliseum on October 24, 25, and 26, 1961. Sister Eva Lu Murrison of Purity Chapter, Wilton Junction, and Brother Edward Yelick of East Gate Chapter, Des Moines, presided as Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron. (Note: The Hotel Roosevelt opened in 1927 and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991. The building is now known as the Roosevelt Apartments.)

With the motto of "Rejoice in Song; be Constant in Prayer; Abide in Truth," Eva Lu entered into the duties of Worthy Grand Matron and planned for her "Happiness Session" of Grand Chapter. "As we look into the face of the future, we realize that the strength and welfare of our Order lie not in the hands of a few, but in the hearts and minds of all of us working together in the spirit of Harmony, Courage and Reverence."

On Monday evening prior to the opening of Grand Chapter, the "Highway of Happiness" banquet was held honoring Iowa's General Grand Chapter Officers and Committee Members. This was followed by the "Stars of Harmony" party at the Consistory building which included a Grand March and dancing in the ballroom to the music of "The Tune Toppers."

The Informal opening was called to order on Tuesday evening by Nell Bonnell and Edward Squire (Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron of 1954). The Grand Pages, attired in aqua formals, and Grand Ushers, wearing yellow formals, performed an impressive drill which consisted of eight different figures and seven songs.

In her Invocation, Lillian Ritter (Past Grand Matron of 1945) said: "O God, in this perilous midst of guided missiles, nuclear power and weapons of deadly warfare, we pray for our President of the United States. Wilt thou bless and sustain him and all others associated with him in high places of authority and responsibility. May the spirit of wisdom, goodness and truth rule their hearts, that law and order, justice and peace shall prevail." (Note: Bay of Pigs Invasion, April 1961; Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962.)

The formal opening of Grand Chapter followed with the Grand Officers entering the Chapter room. The Sisters were attired in gowns of white lace trimmed with pearls and "cabbage roses" above a full gathered skirt with a scalloped hemline.

Just Reminiscing...

~ 60 Years Ago ~

Grand Chapter 1961



Eva Lu Murrison

Worthy Grand Matron

~ ~

Edwin Yelick

Worthy Grand Patron



Each of the Sisters wore pearl earrings, a gift from the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron, and each wore a beautiful yellow orchid of the tropical variety.

Hugh J. Tamisiea (Missouri Valley; Worthy Grand Patron of 1945) opened his address by stating: "In slightly more than two weeks, my term of office as Most Worthy Grand Patron of the General Grand Chapter will terminate... It has been an inspiring and rewarding experience, and I sincerely trust that I have done nothing to bring any discredit upon this, my own Grand Chapter."

The Wednesday morning session began with the Report of the Worthy Grand Matron. Sister Eva Lu began with the following words: "For every good thing there is a beginning and an ending. Just one year ago I beheld a high-way of service and happiness. Today I am nearing the close of my journey with its harvest of love and friendship and a realization that many good deeds have been accomplished."

Instead of Watchwords for the year, Eva Lu chose the "Keywords" of Harmony, Courage and Reverence. "May we remember to raise our voices in songs of gratitude for 'Happy is he who daily lifts his heart to God in thankful praise.' Prayer is an attitude of earnest seeking after God... Truth lies in character, for truth is a thing not of words, but of life and being. Truth is beautiful."

Eva Lu made special note of the gavel and Bible she was using during the Session. "The beautiful lucite gavel, which was presented to me by the Rainbow Assembly of Wilton Junction, has travelled with me throughout the state. Each Worthy Matron where I have visited has had the privilege of using it as she presided. Within the head of the gavel are placed the seven colors of the Rainbow and my Past Grand Chaplain's pin. Placed upon the altar is the beautiful Bible which was presented to me by the Officers of Purity Chapter. The open Holy Bible is the living heart of our Order, and may it be our light to guide us into a Harmony of Truth and Love."

The "Sheaves of Love" project encouraged donations for the Home at Boone to complete the decorating and furnishing of the dining room. It also encouraged Chapters to remember those who are in the autumn of their years by doing something for the nursing homes in their community.

"Gems for His Kingdom" was special project for ESTARL. As a tribute to Brother Hugh J. Tamisiea, the project asked that each member contribute three dimes for each year of the 1958-1961 General Grand Chapter Triennium. The report indicated that a total of \$18,407.05 was received for ESTARL and 38 grants had been given. "Seven of the students are women and 31 are men. Of this number, 27 are preparing for the ministry. The other 11 are entering the fields of church music, religious education and missions."

Eva Lu's travels took her across the state many, many times during her year. Her schedule indicates that she made 160 Official Visits which included receptions for the Grand Officers, 52 afternoon Schools and evening Inspection meetings, 58 additional Chapter visitations, 3 District meetings and 6 Exemplification of the Degrees by the Grand Officers. The Worthy Grand Patron had 114 meetings listed on his itinerary. While the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron were both in attendance at many of the meetings, it was not uncommon for them to attend separate events.

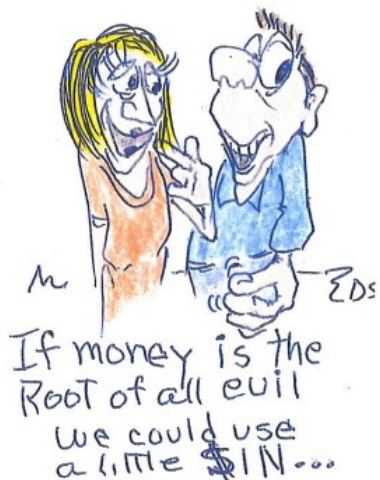
Many Chapters were celebrating special anniversary milestones in 1961. Eleven chapters were instituted in 1911 (50th year); nineteen chapters in 1901 (60th year); fifteen chapters in 1891 (70th year); and three chapters were celebrating their 80th anniversary: Orient Chapter, Manchester; Mount Moriah Chapter, Anamosa and Elmira Chapter, Keokuk.

The Worthy Grand Matron granted permission to 19 Chapters to move their charters. A few of the more interesting moves were made for the following reasons: Emmet Chapter, Armstrong, to temporary quarters in IOOF Hall until the new Masonic Temple is built; Clinton Chapter to Kirk House at the First Presbyterian Church for Installation of Officers; Prairie Chapter, New Sharon, to temporary quarters until Chapter room is repaired due to fire; Council Bluffs Chapter to move the charter from the Masonic Temple building at 4th and Broadway to the new Masonic Temple at 6th and Willow, and to Magi Chapter, Boone, to the Eastern Star Masonic Home for a special meeting.

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The magic of Dale Sorenson's colored pencils!



It's been a pleasure sharing the humor and insight of Brother Dale Sorenson's artwork. Here is my promise made good to share more of his wonderful artwork. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have. ~The Editor



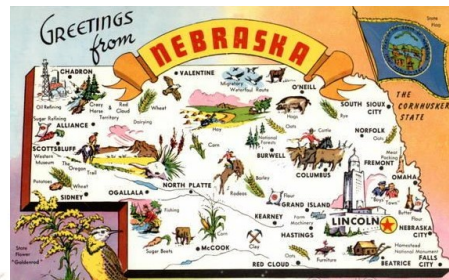


"Kruzin' the World from my comfy chair"

A Travelogue from our Fraternal Correspondent

Mary Reicks, Associate Grand Conductress

and District Instructor



Our virtual visits continue. This time we will be traveling west to our neighbors in Nebraska, which is always a favorite destination for members who are able to travel to other Grand Jurisdictions.

Sister Candace Martin and Brother Harold Terry served as Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron for the 144th session of the Nebraska Grand Chapter held in May of 2019. The "Legacy of Service" Session was held for 3 days mid-week in Kearny. The Worthy Grand Matron's and Worthy Grand Patron's motto for the year was: "The high road to service is traveled with integrity, compassion, and understanding." The aim was "To promote the feelings of joy and commitment through serving others." Royal purple and royal blue were their colors. These were featured throughout their grand chapter celebrations, as were candy and cars, their fun symbols. A special banner was made that traveled with the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron as they attended the various visitations. This was hung at the entrance of the Grand Chapter Room as their way for members to be present with them in spirit when they couldn't be there in person.

The Most Worthy Grand Matron and Most Worthy Grand Patron attended. Those presented included present and past Shrine Potentates. The Grand Marshal's duties included writing and presenting the traditional flag tributes which began with instruction in flag protocol. It included a tribute to the Filipino flag and the POW/MIA flag. There was a Grand Chapter Presentation by the Masonic Youth Leaders of Nebraska that included information about their projects and plans for the year.

The Special Project selected by the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron was **Food Bank for the Heartlands' Backpack Program**. Through general contributions of their members and from the sales of candy and bookmarks during their area visitations, they were able to donate **\$11,895.73**. They were very pleased to help provide weekend meals for school-age children. It is also good to note that the Masonic Eastern Star Home for Children First in Fremont is doing well with a very active 4-H Club for the children.

The "Good and Plenty" Membership Banquet was attended by 396 guests. There were luncheons for Secretaries and Treasurers, and a banquet to honor the Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, Associate Matrons, Associate Patrons, Conductresses and Associate Conductresses of the Subordinate Chapters.

Nebraska had just over 5,400 members in 71 Chapters. In the past, voting at Grand Chapter was limited to Past Matrons and Past Patrons, but at this Grand Chapter it was voted to include all members; however, they had proxy voting which allowed some people to cast up to 5 votes on 1 ballot. Irregularities reported included having more than 1 open Ritual in the Chapter room. They did not exemplify the Degrees during the year.



With a Grand Session filled with candy and antique cars, and members assembling early for a sing-along before the start of an afternoon session, it is very easy to see why Nebraska has a reputation as a fun Grand Jurisdiction to visit. We all look forward to being able to visit Nebraska's Grand Sessions in person in the future.

~~Mary

Our Changed Lives During the COVID-19 Pandemic

An Editorial ~~

Change is hard. And yet, Ecclesiastes 9:11 tells us that there is a season and a time for every purpose.

After two years of COVID-19 and its variants, we are all ready for a change back to the way things were.

But...what if the changes that lie ahead bring something even worse than a pandemic? It's hard to imagine anything worse than hurricanes and tornadoes, wildfires, terrorism and world governments in crisis, and all in the midst of COVID-19.

And yet, life is change. One motivational poster says that if nothing ever changed, there'd be no butterflies. Well, who wants to live in a world without butterflies?

We much prefer life to be familiar and comfortable. Having a predictable routine provides a sense of control and choice.

The fact is that people change. Values change. Relationships change. Jobs change. Locations change. As we grow older, our bodies change—and that's great for everyone under 30. Afterwards, not so much!

When life knocks you down, roll over and look at the stars.

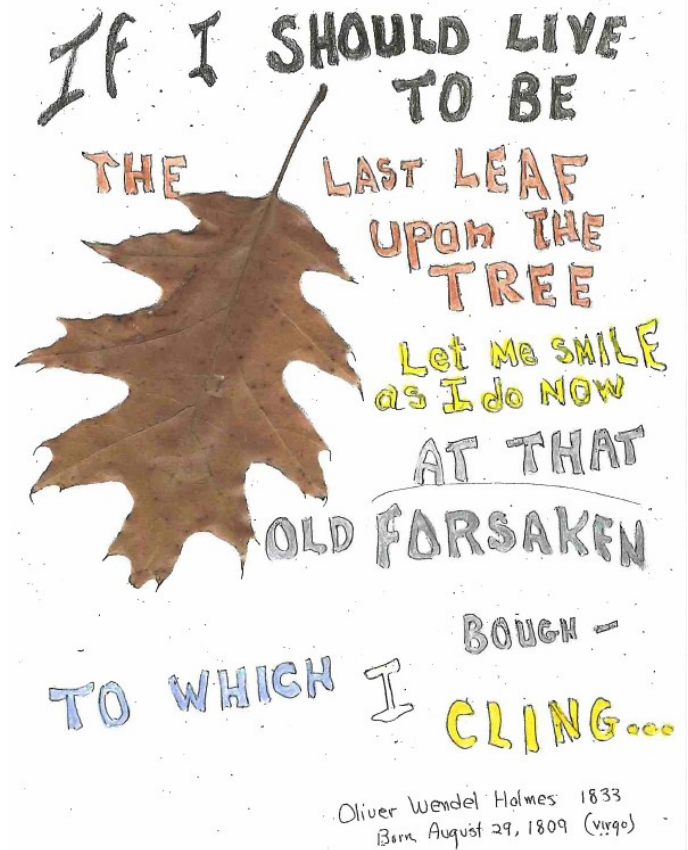
Our O.E.S. Ritual tells us that "Truth never changes." In Psalm 102:27, we read: "But you are the same, and your years will have no end." (NKJV)

Our God does not change, and God's truth never changes. "Forever, O Lord, your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations." (Psalm 119:89 NASB)

Whatever changes lie ahead, we may rest securely in the unchanging nature of God. Some changes will be small—barely a bump in the road. Others are going to feel like the ground beneath our feet just gave away. "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10 NASB)

Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world.

Today I am wise, so I am changing myself.

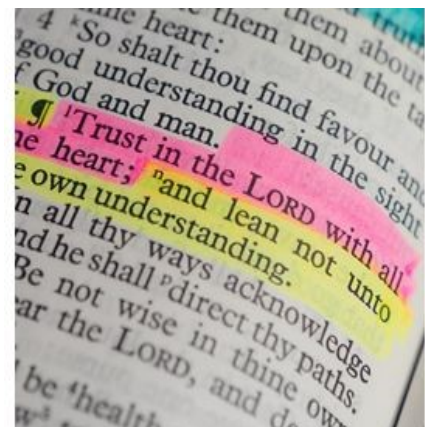


With our Grand Chapter session approaching, we will see legislation presented and new leadership elected. Change is necessary.

With political unrest, violence of criminal activities and weather extremes, change is inevitable.

With young families growing and older families losing loved ones from this life, change can be both sweet and bitter.

So, while this world and we, ourselves, must change and evolve as life requires, we may hold firmly to the love of God and to the truth of God's word.



Our Changed Lives During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Janelle Hammarstedt, Historian

(Continued from Page 7)

There were 467 Chapters in the state on January 1, 1961, with a membership of 84,295. This was a loss of 1,640 members from the previous year. Union Park Chapter No. 555, Des Moines, was constituted on December 5, 1960 and Camanche Chapter (No. 556), Camanche, was instituted on July 13, 1961. (Note: This was the last Chapter instituted in the State of Iowa.) One Chapter, Lake Mills Chapter No. 452, surrendered their charter during the year.

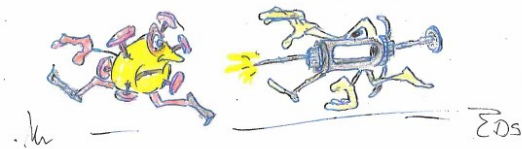


As I read through the list of Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, Chapter Secretaries and others mentioned throughout the proceedings, I see familiar names of many and recall those I met on my Eastern Star journey. Many have passed away and faded from my sight, but they were all willing helpers in the service of humanity.

The "Dawn of Hope" Memorial Service included the following words: "It is with saddened hearts we do acknowledge the loss of many members who have climbed the hills to eternal rest." Eva Lu Murrison passed away on January 15, 2015 at the age of 98, and Edward Yelick passed away November 6, 1966, at the age of 57.

Thanks for listenin' ~

Janelle Hammarstedt



My thanks to everyone who contributed articles to **The Galaxy** during the last two years. Publishing during a pandemic with no meetings or gatherings of any kind was challenging! I'm grateful to all those who responded when I reached out and requested articles—most especially our youth.

I appreciate all the work done by my committee members, Janice Wauson and Erin McCroskey. A big shout goes out to Grand Secretary Nancy Ramthun for her assistance throughout both years. Oh, and be sure to send your news items for the November **Galaxy** to Janice at janicewauson@yahoo.com.

Finally, a very special "thanks" to Kathi Heath who was invaluable as a proofreader and to Dale Sorenson for contributing his wonderful artwork.

From the bottom, top and both sides of my heart,
THANK YOU! ~~Editor

The Iowa **Galaxy** publishes 4 issues yearly:

November, February, May and August.

**The next deadline for publication
is October 30 for the November issue.**

Issues are available at:

WWW.IOWAEASTERNSTAR.ORG

GRAND CHAPTER OF IOWA OES

P.O. Box 72

KNOXVILLE IA 50138

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